(b) if so, the time-frame thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) to (c) Section 327(2) of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 provides that inquiry into and trial of rape or an offence under sections 376A, 376B, 376C or Section 376D of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 should be conducted in camera subject to the proviso thereto.

The Law Commission of India in its 154th Report on the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 has, *inter alia*, recommended that section 327(2) of the Cr.P.C. be amended to provide that in camera trial shall be condcuted as far as practicable by a woman Judge or a Magistrate.

The Report of the Law Commission has been referred to State Governments for their comments as Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure are on the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution of India. It is not feasible to indicate a specific timeframe for a decision on this recommendations as the Government has to take a view on the recommendations of the Law Commission in the 154th Report in its entirety after taking into account views of the State Governments.

Fast Track Courts in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

2011. SHRI KAILASH JOSHI: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Fast Track courts functioning in the States of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh;

(b) the details of such courts though established but not functional due to non-availability of staff and infrastructure;

(c) the details where only Presiding Officers (Judges) have been appointed; and

(d) the steps contemplated to make such courts functional?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) As per available information, 38 Fast Track Courts are functioning in Madhya Pradesh and 23 Fast Track Courts are functioning in the State of Chhattisgarh.

(b) No Fast Track Court. which is established is non functional due to non-availability of staff and infrastructure. In case of deficiency of staff, the registry of the High Court of Madhya Pradesh has issued necessary instructions for engagement of supporting staff on contract basis. In Chhattisgarh, supporting staff is being taken to the Fast Track Courts on deputation basis from the District Courts.

(c) There are no such courts where only Presiding Officers (Judges) have been appointed in Chhattisgarh. In Madhya Pradesh, 15 Presiding Officers have been appointed but they have not joined.

(d) It is the primary responsibility of the State Governments and the High Courts to provide necessary staff and infrastructural facilities for the functioning of Fast Track Courts.

Target date for Photo Identity Cards

2012. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have fixed any date by which the entire population will be having Photo Identity Cards;

(b) if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) the names of States which have covered the entire population as on 30th June, 2002;

(d) the States which Lag behind in issuing cards; and

(e) the steps being taken to ensure that all citizens of the country have identity cards?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI K. JANA KRISHNAMURTHY): (a) and (b) The Election Commission has informed that the Photo Identity Cards are being issued only to that part of the population which is eligible to exercise their franchise *i.e.* over 18 years of age as on 1st January of the relevant year and whose names figure on the Electoral Rolls. The registration of electors is a continuous process. Therefore, the scheme of issue of Electors' Photo Identity Cards to the registered electors will necessarily be a continuous programme for completion of which no time limit can be fixed.